

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 051420Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8147

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5658

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, IS, SY

SUBJECT: SYRIAN CLAIMS OF ISRAELI VIOLATIONS

REF: (A) DAMASCUS 3371

(B) SECTO 10362

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REF (B), DATT RAISED SUBSTANCE OF  
REF (A) WITH IDF INTELLIGENCE (COL. REUTER) ON 4 SEPT 75.  
REUTER CAME BACK ON 5 SEPT WITH FOLLOWING INFORMATION.

2. HE STRESSED THAT HE WAS SPEAKING FOR MG GAZIT, DMI, WHO  
WAS NOT AVAILABLE. BASIC POINT WAS THAT QUOTE THE ANSWER  
GIVEN THE UN BY THE ISRALEIS IS CORRECT AND EXACT. UNQUOTE.  
HE THEN SAID THAT GAZIT WISHED TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL  
POINTS:

(A) EVER SINCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DISENGAGEMENT  
AGREEMENT, ISRAEL HAS CONDUCTED DAILY PATROLS ALONG THE ROAD  
RUNNING BETWEEN LINES A AND A-1. PATROLS HAVE BEEN

CONDUCTED BY THE BORDER POLICE, USING APCS, HALF-TRACKS,  
AND SCOUT CARS. ALL OF THE BEHICLES BELONG TO THE BORDER POLICE  
AND NOT TO THE IDF, AND ARE PAINTED STANDARD POLICE GREEN.

(B) PATROLS CHECK FOR SIGNS OF INFILTRATION AND ARE  
CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL FOR THE SAFETY OF ISRAELI FARMERS WHO  
WORK IN FIELDS IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO THE DISENGAGEMENT LINES.

(C) IDF IS VERY SURPRISED THAT SYRIA HAS ONLY NOW OBJECTED

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TO A PRACTICE THAT HAS BEEN GOING ON DAILY FOR MORE THAN A YEAR.

3. COMMENT: IN RESPONSE TO A SERIES OF QUESTIONS, REUTER PROVIDED FOLLOWING INFO. THE PATROL ROAD DOES, IN FACT, RUN BETWEEN LINES A AND A-1. (HE CONFIRMED THIS WITH A TELEPHONE CALL TO AN UNIDENTIFIED OFFICIAL.) HE STRESSED THAT ISRAELI USE OF ROAD HAD BEEN AGREED TO, AS LONG AS AREA REMAINED DEMILITARIZED; THUS, HE SAID, CIVILIAN BORDER POLICE COULD PATROL THE ROAD WITHOUT BEING IN VIOLATION OF THE AGREEMENT. HE REPEATEDLY RETURNED TO THEME THAT FROM THE FIRST DAY TO THE PRESENT, THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN ROUTE, PROCEDURE, OR EQUIPMENT USED BY THESE PATROLS. HIS PERSONAL REACTION TO SYRIAN CLAIM OF VIOLATION WAS ONE OF INCREDULITY IN THAT, IN HIS VIEW, THESE PATROLS WERE NEITHER UNUSUAL NOR UNAUTHORIZED. FYI: THE BORDER POLICE IS A PARA-MILITARY FORCE (APPROX. 4500 STRONG). IN DRESS, IT IS INDISTINGUISHABLE FROM IDF TROOPS EXCEPT FOR THE GREEN BERETS WORN BY BORDER POLICE. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT ALONG THE LEBANESE BORDER, THE BORDER POLICE ARE UNDER THE OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF THE IDF. REUTER COULD NOT (OR WOULD NOT) CONFIRM OR DENY IF SIMILAR RELATIONSHIP SXISTS IN KUNEITRA AREA, BUT HE CONCEDED THAT EVEN IF NOT CONTROLLED BY IDF, BORDER POLICE ACTIVITIES WOULD BE TIGHTLY COORDINATED WITH LOCAL IDF COMMANDER. TOON

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## Message Attributes

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